

## **LYING**

By lying is meant deliberate falsification with intent to deceive. It is uncommon before the fifth year of life. Comprehension of the significance of truthfulness is generally attained by the sixth or seventh year

Types of Lying

### **“Fantastic” Lies**

Fantasying is not lying, but it is sometimes interpreted as such by the parents, thus causing them unnecessary agitation and concern.

### **Imitative Lies**

Imitation of a parent who colours events to make a story more amusing or interesting is a common cause of lying.

### **Lies of Exaggeration**

Exaggeration or bragging is frequent in children. The fish was so big

### **Lies of Convention or Social Lies**

“White lies” are widely used by adults. The child often hears a parent say, “I have another engagement,” in response to an invitation which he does not wish to accept. He is unable to appreciate that these evasions result from the desire to guard against the demands and pressures of social living which the parents consider excessive.

### **Defensive Lies**

Children probably lies most often to escape punishment. The defensive lie may arise out of any situation which the young child finds himself in danger of blame.

A closely related form of lying results when the child is coerced into making a promise. Promise me “you will be good”. The best way to prevent lying of this sort is to avoid the necessity of it.

### **Attention-Seeking Lies**

Lying is sometimes used in order to gain attention. “I did do my homework” when the parent knows very well that he has not.

### **Vengeful Lies**

Revenge is a basis for lying, as it is for stealing and disobedience. The child wants to get even with his parents and lies to annoy them. “Where have you been?” by saying that he has been swimming, because he knows that it is forbidden will upset them. He derives a sense of importance from being able to put over the lie and have it believed and also from seeing his parents upset and angry. Vengeful feelings often arise in response to authoritative parents.

### **Compensatory Lies**

Children frequently lie in order to win admiration and praise. The youngster, unable to live up to parental expectations, invents successes in an effort to please his family and also to justify himself in his own estimation. Thus if a poor reader is able to make his parents believe that he excels in arithmetic, he may be praised rather than scolded.

### **Antagonistic Lies**

Personal antagonisms may lead to untruthfulness. An adult, when asked by a persistent child for a favour, may reply by saying that he is busy, not realising that he is lying. When repeatedly antagonised by some member of the family, they may become negativistic and refuse to do what is asked, making untruthful excuses and elaborating falsehoods not only to avoid compliance, but also to deliberately provoke the other person.

### **Pathologic Lying**

By pathologic lying is meant deliberate falsification without discernible advantage.

# IS IT THE TRUTH ?

By

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